

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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21

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SAM-01 IO-11 /075 W

----- 095094

O 141035Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8607

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBACSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 1427

DELIVER NEA/ARN/DRAPER AT OPENING OF BUSINESS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJ: 0900 LEBANON REPORT

1. PRES FRANGIE IS SCHEDULED TO ANNOUNCE TO THE NATION THE AGREEMENT SETTling THE CONSTITUTIONAL AND POLITICAL CRISIS FOLLOWING ITS APPROVAL BY THE CABINET MEETING IN SPECAIL SESSION THIS MORNING. FROM WHAT WE HAVE SEEN OF DOUCMENTS USED IN NEGOTIATING THE AGREEMENT (SEPARATE REPORTING) SOME POINTS HAVE NOT YET BEEN CLARIFIED, WHILE ON THE OTHER HAND PROCEDURES INVOLVED WITH AGREED POINTS ARE LAID OUT IN CONSIDERABLE DETAIL. WE SUPPOSE PRESIDENT WILL ANNOUNCE MAIN LINES OF AGREEMENT AND SKIP OVER LACUNAE. FOR EXAMPLE, QUESTION OF GUARANTEE OF MARONITE PRESIDENCY IN WRITING REMAINS MOOT.

2. ANNOUNCEMENT IS NEVERTHELESS EXPECTED TO SET IN MOTION
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NEXT STAGE OF POLICITCAL PROCESS WITH PROBABILITY THAT KARAME

WILL TRY TO ENLARGE THE GOVERNMENT. EXTENSIVE POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS HAVE BEEN TAKING PLACE SINCE YESTERDAY. LEFT-WING "PROGRESSIVE" FORCES MET. PLO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MET FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MONTHS. KASLIK MARONIT GROUP "THE FRONT OF LIBERTY AND MAN" MET TO DRAW UP ITS CHARTER. JUMBLATT, SAEB SALAM, AND KARAME DID A LOT OF VISITING, RECEIVING, AND TELEPHONING. EVEN RAYMOND EDDE CAME UP WITH LONG DISSERTATION ON THE ORIGINS OF THE CRISIS IN WHICH U.S. FOR ONCE WAS NOT BLAMED. WHILE CRITICIZING FRANGIE AS ONE OF THE MAIN MALEFACTORS, EDDE STATED THAT LEBANESE WOULD HAVE ONLY THEMSELVES TO BLAME FOR ANY RENEWAL OF THE FIGHTING AT THIS POINT.

3. SITUATION REMAINS TENSE IN ZAHLE, WHERE MILITARY COMMITTEE HEAD SUPERVISING CEASEFIRE WAS KIDNAPPED BY A GROUP OF ZAHLIOTES AND LATER RELEASED YESTERDAY. SECURITY CONTINUES TO IMPROVE IN THE REST OF THE COUNTRY, HOWEVER, AND CLEANING UP OF BEIRUT AS WELL AS DAMOUR CONTINUES. LAW AND ORDER REMAINS SKETCHY AT NIGHT, WITH SEVERAL OLD FASHIONED HOLD-UPS FOR MONEY REPORTED IN BEIRUT LAST NIGHT.

4. AS A SIGN OF THE TIMES, CHAMOUN HAS GONE HUNTING TODAY. JUMBLATT IS TALKING ABOUT FOREIGN TRAVEL AND EMBASSY HAS LEARNED PRIVATELY THAT HIS TRAVEL IS LIKELY TO INCLUDE TRIP TO CAIRO.
LAMBRAKIS

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NNN

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